

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (withdrawn) An improved process for the production of powders of inhalable medicaments by crystallization from a supersaturated fluid containing said medicament, the improved process comprising passing along a tubular reactor
 - (a) a segmented flow of a supersaturated fluid containing medicament comprised of discrete volumes; or
 - (b) a fluid mixture being separated by discrete volumes of a separating fluid which is substantially immiscible with the supersaturated fluid containing medicament, and initiating crystallization by application of ultrasound.
2. (withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the segmented flow passes along the tubular reactor as a plug flow.
3. (withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the tubular reactor consists of the following segments:
 - (i) a residence time (t_R) segment;
 - (ii) an ultrasound time (t_{US}) segment; and
 - (iii) optionally an aging time (t_A) segment.
4. (withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 3 wherein t_{US} is 1 to 30 s and t_A is 0.5 to 15 min.
5. (withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 3 wherein t_{US} is 0.5 to 15 min and t_A is 0 to 30 s.
6. (withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein ultrasound with a frequency of 20 to 60 kHz is applied.
7. (withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 6 wherein the energy density of the ultrasound applied is from 10 to 80 WL^{-1} .

8. (withdrawn) A micro-reactor for implementing the process according to claim 1 comprising a micro-mixer, a segmenter and a tubular reactor, wherein
 - the dimensions of the micro-mixer for dividing the added fluids which are to be mixed is in the range of 10 µm to 1 mm, preferably between 25 µm to 200 µm,
 - the dimensions of the channels of the segmenter lie in the range of 0.1 to 5 mm, preferably in the range of between 0.2 mm and 5 mm, and
 - the tubular reactor is configured to be tube-, pipe- or channel-shaped with diameters of the channels in the range of 0.5 to 10 mm, preferably 1 mm to 2 mm, and with a length of between 10 cm and 200 m, preferably between 1 m and 25 m and is equipped with an external ultrasound source.
9. (withdrawn) The micro-reactor according to claim 8, wherein the tubular reactor consists of the following segments:
 - (i) a residence time (t_R) segment;
 - (ii) an ultrasound time (t_{US}) segment; and
 - (iii) optionally an aging time (t_A) segment.
10. (withdrawn) The micro-reactor according to claim 9, wherein the ultrasound time (t_{US}) segment is inserted into an ultrasound bath.
11. (previously presented) An inhalable medicament with an aerodynamic diameter of less than 20 µm, preferably less than 5 µm and greater than 0.3 µm, characterized in that it is produced by means of a process for the production of powders of inhalable medicaments by crystallization from a supersaturated fluid containing said inhalable medicament, the improved process comprising passing along a tubular reactor
 - (a) a segmented flow of a supersaturated fluid containing medicament comprised of discrete volumes; or
 - (b) a fluid mixture being separated by discrete volumes of a separating fluid which is substantially immiscible with the supersaturated fluid containing

Application No. 10/685,254
Amendment dated June 28, 2007
Reply to Office Action mailed March 12, 2007

medicament,
and initiating crystallization by application of ultrasound.